

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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CHARLES S. CRANE, Manager.

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HAWAIIANS AND NEGROES.

Hawaii and her people are receiving considerable attention just now from the mainland press, principally because objections were raised here to the stationing of a regiment of negro troops at Lihalehale and incidentally because the appointment of Charles A. Cottrell, of Toledo, a leading negro politician, was also objected to.

Attention is drawn sarcastically to the fact that the native Hawaiians are dark-skinned people but object to the presence of other dark-skinned people, while some of the papers go to the length of stating that Hawaiians and negroes are the same thing. One paper, the National Tribune, a service paper, outdoes all its contemporaries by insulting the Hawaiian Delegate to Congress and his wife.

It is because of the fact that the majority on the mainland insist on classing Hawaiians as negroes that The Advertiser based its objections to the coming here of negro troops. It is not because there can be any objection to negroes in themselves, individually or as a race, but because of a misunderstanding concerning the natives of Hawaii and the trouble that would undoubtedly arise because of that misunderstanding, should negro troops be stationed here.

The National Tribune, published in the city of Washington, says:

Some people have very thin skins, and must feel that their reputations are not tacked on very tight, or they would not be eternally kicking about the race, color and previous condition of servitude of the people they meet up with in a day's march. Just at the present moment Secretary Dickinson, who has returned to Washington from a tour about the Philippines and Hawaiian Islands, is having the time of his life in settling the important question of the shade of color that shall be worn by the troops who are to be sent to Hawaii in 1911. It has been the intention to send some of our fine colored troops. On the mere suggestion of such a thing the other organizations of Hawaii are beginning to protest against the colored troops. Now, if you will just stop to think a minute, that sort of thing will jar your sensibilities. The representative of the Hawaiian Islands in congress is "Prince Cupid," better known as Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻōle, and supposed to be part negro, and excepting in the official set "Prince Cupid," and his wife are very severely ostracized by society, and here is Hawaii kicking on having colored troops take their regular turn in the insular service and spending a year or two in Hawaii.

Next comes R. H. Scofield, of Muskogee, Oklahoma, who tells the Times Democrat of his city that "he spent several months in the islands." During that time he discovered many strange things, but, fortunately for Hawaii, a hasty correction of his mistakes came to the same paper from another correspondent, residing in Wagoner, Oklahoma. What Mr. Scofield discovered was this:

The natives are a species of negro. They are a very small people, and have straight black hair instead of kinky twists. They intermarry with the Japanese and the whites and the natives of the islands rarely marry. They are a thrifty people and unlike our American negroes, work hard and accumulate property. They are also very saving. Even though they are a kind of a negro, they have no use for the American negro or the black that comes from the United States.

I was sitting in a restaurant one day and an American negro walked in and took a seat at the table. The Jap who owned the restaurant gently tapped him on the shoulder and told him that he could not eat there, but that there was a strictly negro eating house farther down the street. I began to make some inquiries and found that the American and African negroes were Jim Crowed there just as they are in Oklahoma.

The islands are populated principally by Japanese and natives, who mix socially and otherwise. The American or white people do not mix with the natives socially, but in a business way.

One of Uncle Sam's carpetbaggers is Governor of the Islands. The natives have their own government and their own queen, but their government does not amount to a great deal. It is similar to the tribal government in the Five Tribes in Oklahoma.

To this amazing jumble of misstatements, the Wagoner correspondent of the Times-Democrat, wrote:

Noticing in your paper some statements given out by Mr. R. H. Scofield, who has recently returned from a visit to the Hawaiian Islands, I wish to say that it is evident the gentleman is in error on some points regarding that country. As I lived there for fourteen years, I feel that I am fairly well acquainted with conditions and inhabitants.

It is a disputed question as to the origin of the natives of those islands. They seem to be a distinct and separate race, being brown in color never black. As to their intermarrying with Japanese or Chinese this is very rare, while it is a very common occurrence with the whites and natives.

In size they are of splendid physique, and are excelled by no other race in the South Pacific, unless, perhaps, the Samoans.

Mr. Scofield says the Governor of the Islands is one of Uncle Sam's "carpetbaggers." I may not understand all that term implies, but I will say I am personally acquainted with the Governor and I know him to be a man of education, honorable and upright.

"The natives have their own queen," only in so far as they hold her lovingly in their hearts, as doubtless they do, and their government is the same as that of every other citizen of Hawaii. Annexation of the Territory to the United States took place in August, 1898.

While there are quite a good many Japanese and Chinese, also Portuguese, scattered throughout the group of islands, having been brought there as contract laborers for plantations years ago, one's first impression on landing in Honolulu, the capital city of 44,000, is that it is "principally inhabited" by Americans of great energy and progress, so evident is the results of their enterprise in the making of a modern city, splendid educational institutions, fine churches and beautiful homes.

The natives of that country are by nature intelligent, kind, honest. It has been observed that they hold themselves superior to the few negroes there.

THE COTTRELL APPOINTMENT.

According to the best information obtainable, the appointment to the office of collector of internal revenue of a Toledo politician will come because Hawaii was not able to agree upon the name of a local applicant for the office. The President of the United States went to the trouble of calling to Honolulu to ask who the people here wanted, standing ready to appoint the man named. As usual, those to whom the matter was referred backed and filled, insisted on naming several candidates and refused to unite on one. Consequently Cottrell.

Isn't it about time the Republicans of Honolulu graduate from the political kindergarten and place men on their executive committee able to do something besides squabble around the committee table and arrive nowhere.

It is not to be wondered at that the Delegate has refused to stick his finger into the mess now to help those who made it. He has personal knowledge of the position the selfishness of Honolulu can put a man into. More than once he has had weeks of congressional work knocked galley west by a change of mind here.

Unless Honolulu can learn to agree, and then stick, Cottrell will only be the first.

With practically the entire Chinese community united against him, it would appear that the career of usefulness of the Chinese consul general in Hawaii is over. If it had been some international affair in which the consul had earned the disfavor of the Chinese community there might be policy in his government retaining him at this post, but when there exists such a breach as has opened over a purely Chinese affair, his position is untenable.

A NAVY WITHOUT COLLIERIES.

The report of the secretary of the navy, a resume of which is given elsewhere in this issue, puts a decided wet blanket upon the agitation from the West to have a large part of the battleship fleet stationed in the Pacific. The secretary considers that the duties in the Caribbean Sea are of more pressing importance than any which are likely to arise in the Pacific, but gives as his main reason for declining to agree with the Pacific Coast people the fact that there is no adequate or proper coal supply in the West and the cost of conveying it there is excessive.

In this connection the secretary puts in a strong argument for ship subsidy, showing that even with a fifty per cent bonus in freight rates there are not enough American ships to carry naval coal from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The secretary says:

With the difference in the cost of coal when it is supplied by our own colliers (supposing that sufficient colliers were available) it would cost nearly \$4,000,000 a year more to maintain the fleet in the Pacific than it does to maintain it in the Atlantic Ocean. No suitable coal mined on the Pacific Coast is yet available, so that the permanent transfer of the fleet to the Pacific Ocean would call for an increased expenditure of at least the sum mentioned. Should the coal be transported entirely in American bottoms, this cost would be increased at least twenty-five per cent. In addition to this matter of coal, the cost of navy yard repairs and of all supplies on the west coast is somewhat greater than on the Atlantic.

The facilities existing on the Pacific Coast, particularly as regards docks, are not yet sufficient to maintain a large fleet comprising sixteen or more battleships and the other component parts of a fleet, and will not be for some time to come. On account of these reasons, largely economical, it would appear inadvisable to transfer the fleet to the Pacific, even if there were no other reasons; but it is considered that the place for the fleet, at least until the Panama Canal is completed, is in the Atlantic. Our responsibilities in regard to the Panama Canal will probably properly call for the presence of the fleet in or near the Caribbean Sea, unless some emergency should arise calling for its presence elsewhere.

When the Panama Canal is opened the fleet can pass from one ocean to the other, and it would then, probably, with the increased facilities of the two navy yards on the Pacific Coast, which are advisable, spend different periods of time in each ocean. It would also seem to be practicable for the fleet to make cruises at different times, somewhat after the principle of the battleship cruise around the world, and the Pacific Ocean is well adapted for exercises of that character.

During the last three years the average freight rate for coal shipped in American vessels to the Pacific Coast was about \$7 per ton. The rate in foreign steamers averaged about \$3.80. The American bids have ranged from \$7 to \$13.50 per ton for shipments in American steamers; but, even at such rates, very few tenders of American bottoms are made. In fact, there are not enough American steamers available to supply our fleet in the Pacific, even at excessive freight rates. At present a differential of fifty per cent is allowed in favor of American ships, and shipments are made in American bottoms whenever they can be obtained at a figure not greater than fifty per cent in excess of rates in foreign bottoms.

PROPER RECOMMENDATION.

The secretary of the navy's recommendation that a number of navy yards be abolished is a bold one, which is certain to call down upon his head the maledictions of those now profiting by the upkeep of useless institutions. The country generally, however, will applaud the report of Secretary Meyer in the same manner as was applauded the outspoken denunciation by the President of the pork barrel bills of rivers and harbors and public buildings.

Apparently there was need of some frank condemnation of the manner in which the people's money was being wasted in keeping up naval yards that were useful only to supply jobs and put money in circulation in some congressmen's districts. The feeling throughout the country is not of a tendency too generous to the navy to allow money to be frittered away.

The navy yard at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is an instance of the general waste. In one year \$790,000 was expended for labor to get \$418,804 worth of product. At New Orleans, the same year, the output of the yard was worth \$1046, and the cost was \$12,274, while the million-dollar floating drydock handled one ship.

The Portsmouth navy yard cost \$10,000,000 and its drydock \$1,100,000 and only gunboats can approach it, the channels being so bad.

At the Charlestown yard in South Carolina, which cost the country \$4,000,000, the river is so narrow that no large ship can maneuver in it. At the Port Royal yard, now abandoned except by a force of marines, the only battleship ever docked in the costly drydock went ashore trying to get out.

It appears high time that the money voted for the maintenance and the development of the navy went to the intended purpose and not into vote-catching but otherwise useless yards.

KOREA TEACHING AMERICA.

The latest lesson in the advantages to a people of a postal savings bank system comes from Korea, where the system was put in operation three years ago. These postal banks are the only ones patronized at all by the Korean populace and their aggregate savings have grown in three years from thirty million yen to one hundred and twenty million and the total number of depositors from four thousand to nineteen thousand at the end of the fiscal year of 1909 and to twenty-five thousand at the end of July of this year.

None will deny that the above figures reflect great credit on the new regime. In former times, the Korean people had little or no means of storing their savings, except by burying them in the ground. It was not infrequent that when a person was known to have amassed a little fortune he was pounced upon by robbers or worse still by officials and robbed of it in its entirety. Under the circumstances people scarcely cared to save money. They have now learned that under the new regime their property is safe and that the postal office savings bank can be trusted with what they have saved.

At first they naturally hesitated to bring their savings to postoffices, for to them it was too good to be true that not only would their money be paid back whenever they asked for it, but would be returned with interest too. By degrees, however, they have been enlightened by actual examples and the number of those bringing their savings to the postal bank has been increasing rapidly and steadily. At the same time the habit of industry and thrift is spreading and growing among them.

There is no doubt that the postal office savings bank is proving itself in Korea, as it will in this country, a highly beneficial institution for the promotion of the general welfare of the people.

Although a Japanese vice-admiral is quoted in an alarmist article to the effect that the American naval activity must mean war with Japan, it can not be said that Japan herself is lagging behind in naval preparation. It has just been announced, for instance, that Japan has placed an order with Vickers of Great Britain for a 27,000-ton cruiser of the Invincible type, excluding the foreign patronage by stating that all the Japanese yards were busy on existing contracts. It is now up to Mr. Hearst or some other enterprising person to shout a warning to America to prepare for the worst.

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HAWAII'S MILITARY CENSUS.

Undoubtedly considerable attention will be paid by the war department particularly and by the people of the mainland in general to the figures of the military and naval census taken in Hawaii at the time of the general census this spring. While comparatively little thought was given to the matter by the people of Hawaii at the time of the census, the results of it appear certain to have a very vital effect upon the future status of these islands in the eyes of the military from now on, while, looking at the matter from the standpoint of the government, the figures are most probably to play a large part in whatever congressional action may be taken in the labor situation of Hawaii.

Victor S. Clark, who was special agent for Hawaii in the census taking, and who is now the executive officer of the board of immigration, has prepared an article on the local military and naval census for a San Francisco naval publication, "Our Navy," received in the last mail. The figures given by him are certain to prove startling, even in Hawaii, where we are used to the fact of the preponderance of the oriental population.

The tabulations show that there are 103,500 males in the Territory over eight years old. Of these, in round numbers, 50,000 are Japanese, which means, that of adult males capable of bearing arms, more than one-half are Japanese. Of the remainder of the male population, there are 15,000 Chinese, 3000 Filipinos, 11,000 Hawaiians, 8500 Portuguese, and, of all others, Americans, Germans, Spaniards, Russians, negroes, Porto Ricans, British and French, about 7500.

The total number of Caucasian males is less than the number of Chinese and considerably less than a third of the number of Japanese.

However disturbing the above may be to those who view affairs from a military standpoint, the figures in regard to comparative military training must be much more so. At the time of writing, the only tabulations completed were those relating to the Island of Kauai, but the same proportion most probably prevails throughout all the Islands. On Kauai there were found to be 584 persons with military training, and, although they did not all report regarding their war experience, it was learned that of the total of 584, no fewer than 378 were Japanese who had seen active service. Of the 206 others, 71 were Koreans, 56 Spanish or Portuguese and of all other whites only 43. Of the fifty-nine who had seen naval service, thirty-two were Japanese and twelve were whites.

Commenting on these figures, Mr. Clark writes:

The conditions shown by these statistics indicate how little serious concern must exist in Washington as to the prospect of future hostilities with our nearest and most powerful western neighbor, Japan. For complete figures would probably show that over one-half of the men in Hawaii able to bear arms are Japanese, and that two-thirds or three-fourths of the men having actual military experience are of that nationality. Nor do these estimates cover the whole field from a military or naval point of view. From their occupations the Japanese have much greater familiarity with the topography and the landings of Hawaii than do the other residents. The census agents found Japanese charcoal burners in the remotest mountain fastnesses, using trails that were almost forgotten even by the older Hawaiians, and practically familiar in the course of their daily duties with passes and recesses of the broken country unknown to other residents. On the sea, meantime, the Japanese sampan fishermen have driven the Hawaiians from this occupation, and they cruise in their gasoline boats over the entire archipelago, even 150 miles to sea to the bird islands west of Nihaun, and know the soundings of every reef and harbor of the Territory better than do the natives themselves.

This practical familiarity with the physiography of the Territory, as well as their preponderance in the population, has come to the Japanese not as the result of any deeply considered plot to oust us from our possessions in the Pacific, but merely in the course of competition—because a lower standard of living combined with untiring industry and aggressive enterprise has given them an economic advantage over the natives and those white immigrants who have come to the Territory.

A FRIEND AT COURT.

The appointment of Willis Van Devanter to the Supreme Bench of the United States is a blessing to Hawaii, as blessings go, and not necessarily in disguise. Of all officials connected with the executive and judicial branches of the government, Willis Van Devanter probably knows Hawaii, and particular Hawaiian law, better than any other.

Picked out by President Roosevelt as assistant attorney-general in the department of the interior under Cornelius Bliss, he had the greater share in the drafting of the Organic Act of Hawaii. When Bliss left the department he wanted to place Van Devanter in one of the great law firms of New York, but he declined the offer.

And there are other things which place him in close touch with things Hawaiian. While on the Wyoming bench he admitted Robert W. Breebons to the practice of the law and was a next-door neighbor of the United States district attorney for Hawaii for ten years. Letters with the Hawaiian post mark are therefore not infrequent in the mail of the new Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

In spite of the objections voiced on Maui, it is hardly conceivable that the coming legislature will chastise the superintendent of education for preventing the school system from deteriorating until the solons of 1911 could remedy the mistakes of those of 1909.

It is to be hoped the navy people will forget, when mentioning the armored cruiser Manhattan, that there is such a thing as a cocktail.

PRICES ARE TOO HIGH FOR WAGES.

(Continued from Page One.)

At another plantation store a few miles away at a dollar and a quarter, and asked whether this signified a difference in the cost of operation or an actual desire to realize a profit.

Governor Frazar spoke for a half an hour, but added little material to the discussion. Other speakers were A. L. C. Atkinson, whose address did not help to clarify the atmosphere, and Attorney Lightfoot, who was formerly the counsel for both the striking Japanese and the Russian immigrants.

Behind Closed Doors.

No newspaper men were present to record any of the warm remarks. There was a suggestion made at the commencement of the meeting that they might be interested in the discussion, but this motion was hastily quashed on the plea that it would hinder its freedom.

Filipino immigration received a hard smack from the commissioner, who declared that the Little Brown Brothers were impossible to Americanize. He strongly boosted the Russians and called them the best laborers that he had seen.

Among those at the meeting were Governor Frazar, Doctor Clark, R. W. Breebons, E. Faxon Bishop, Samuel Damon, W. O. Smith, E. H. Wodehouse, E. D. Tenney, J. P. Cooke, A. L. C. Atkinson, H. F. Wichman, Charles Bow, Christian Hedemann and J. L. McLean. Discussing the Filipino situation last night Commissioner Keefe went briefly through the points which he took up at the meeting:

Poor Citizens.

"They are not the sort of people that make good American citizens," he said. "In the first place, they are not brought up to any industry in their own country, and have nothing to settle down to when here. Coming over as aliens, they are furnished with what in our money is the equivalent of \$2.50. For men bringing their wives along with them, the allowance is equal to \$7.50. Further than this, they receive a blank suit, a blanket and a large packet of cigarettes. On arrival at Hilo they receive a further sum of \$2.50.

"This is the whole of their stock in

trade when they are landed here, for they have no work which they are used to doing, and, to make matters worse, in order to get the extra amount of money a great number of them bring over women to whom they are not married. How to Americanize a crowd like that is a problem that is more than I can answer.

"With the Russians it is a different matter. According to all the accounts I can gather from the men who employ them, they are the best workmen of the whole lot, and it is a pity that more of them can not be induced to stay.

Russians Complimented.

"Russians are white men, and they are entitled to all the privileges of white men coming into the United States, and after a time they can become citizens if they wish to. I have been advising them not to go across to the Coast just now, especially under present conditions, as it is a bad time of year, and they are not likely to find work, and they would be worse off there than they are here.

"White labor can be maintained here in Hawaii by the adoption of three things. First, there must be an increase in wages; secondly, there must be a decrease in the cost of living, and lastly, a change in the living conditions. This is, of course, a matter which lies entirely with the employers, and I can't enter more fully into it, as I did not inquire into their business.

"I am getting hold of every piece of information that I can about the subject, but I can not say anything more definite about the matter until I return from the trip around the rest of the islands."

The government has constructed a \$250,000 theater in connection with the Hospital for the Insane at Washington, where a continuous performance will be given for the benefit of the 4000 inmates.

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